

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT [281]

Notice of Intended Action

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 256.7(5), the State Board of Education hereby proposes to amend Chapter 32, “High School Equivalency Diploma,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The amendment in Item 1 is needed to reflect a new test series from the General Educational Development Testing Service that changed the scoring of the tests. All other changes reflect the provisions in Iowa Code section 259A.2, and the enactment of 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 470, section 7, both of which authorize the State Board of Education to establish the amount of fees in rule. The fees have not been raised in over 20 years.

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found.

An agency-wide waiver provision is provided in 281—Chapter 4.

Interested individuals may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before September 13, 2011, at 4:30 p.m. Comments on the proposed amendments should be directed to Carol Greta, Office of the Director, Iowa Department of Education, 2nd floor, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0146; telephone (515)281-8661; E-mail carol.greta@iowa.gov; or fax (515)281-4122.

A public hearing will be held on September 13, 2011, from 1 – 2 p.m. in the State Board room, second floor, Grimes State Office Building, East 14th Street and Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. Any persons who intend to attend the public hearing and have special

requirements such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact and advise the Department of Education of their specific needs by calling (515) 281-3125.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 259A, as amended by 2011 Iowa Acts, Senate File 470, section 7.

The following amendments are proposed.

Item 1. Amend rule **281—32.3(259A)** as follows:

281—32.3(259A) Minimum score. Applicants shall make a minimum standard score of ~~35~~ 410 on each test and an average standard score of ~~45~~ 450 on all five of the General Educational Development Tests.

Item 2. Amend rule **281—32.5(259A)**, introductory paragraph, as follows

281—32.5(259A) Retest. Any applicant not achieving the minimum standard test scores as defined in 32.3(259A), upon payment of a ~~\$5~~ \$10 fee, shall be permitted to make application for retest and scoring of the retest, provided that one of the following conditions is met:

Item 3. Amend rule **281—32.6(259A)** as follows:

281—32.6(259A) Application fee. The applicant or supporting agency shall pay an application fee of ~~\$20~~ \$25. This fee shall be paid to the official Iowa General Educational Development Testing Agency and shall allow for initial testing and scoring of the initial testing of the eligible candidate with the five General Educational Development Tests.

Item 4. Add new rule **281—32.7(259A)** as follows:

281—32.7(259A) Diploma, transcript, verification fees. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a high school equivalency diploma to an applicant who has achieved the minimum score established in

rule 32.3. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a copy of an applicant's transcript to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the transcript. Upon payment of \$10 to the Iowa department of education, the department shall prepare and issue a verification that an applicant has earned a high school equivalency diploma to the applicant or person authorized by the applicant to request the verification.